

dismantling of QRs and the consequent increase in international competition; and,

(ii) To consider and evolve a road map for selective de-reservation in respect of certain products presently reserved for the SSI Sector, as may be considered necessary for enabling a phased and orderly transition and increasing national competitiveness.

(c) The deliberations of the GOM are not yet over.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Increase in SSI Units

†2165. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of **SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of small scale industrial units in the year 1991 was 19 lakh which has increased to about 31 lakh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the persons working in the small scale industrial sector has also increased to 42 lakh during the above period; and

(d) if not, the actual number of such persons at present together with the year-wise increase in their number since 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The estimated number of small scale industrial units in the country was 19.48 lakhs during the year 1990-91 and the same during 1998-99 was 31.21 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The estimated number of persons employed in the small scale industrial sector in 1999-2000 is 178.50 lakhs. The year-wise estimated employment and the increase since 1990-91 is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Estimated	125.30	129.80	134.06	139.38	146.56	152.61	160.00	167.20	171.58	178.50
Employment (in lakhs numbers)										
Estimated	—	4.50	8.76	14.08	21.26	27.31	34.70	41.90	46.28	53.20
increase since 1990-91 (in lakh numbers)										